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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06753.0480-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Takao MURAKAMI et al.

Application No.: 09/986,077

Filed: November 7, 2001

For: WIRE CONNECTING
CONNECTOR

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) Group Art Unit: 2839
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) Examiner: J. Duverne
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Final Office Action and is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified under § 1.17(p) and a certification as specified under § 1.97(e). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached 1449 form.

Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

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Copies of the listed documents are attached.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of a search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.


Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 16, 2003

By: 
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